

ject showed peremptorily that the popes made it an inflexible rule to receive no authors whose writings figured among the prohibited books unless and until those authors had withdrawn their writings and submitted. Abb6 Alfred Loisy, the author of "La Question Biblique" and "L'Evangile et l'Eglise," has of more recent times discovered the *procedure* to be such as is here stated. He, like Zola's AbW Pierre Fromeat, repaired to Rome to plead his cause, but though cardinals may have received him, he was not allowed to approach the Pope. Zola, in his "Rome," used a novelist's license when he brought Abb4 Pierre face to face "with Leo XIII; and all readers of the book are aware that the interview is pictured as a secret one, obtained by surreptitious means, such as Zola could never have employed. Had he asked for an audience he must have done so through the usual channel, that of the French embassy to the Vatican; and "we have before us that embassy's express statement that no such application was ever made. Thus, contrary to the assertions which went the round of the world's press, Zola did not ask to see the Pope, and the Pope did not have occasion to refuse Mm, leaving Paris at the end of October, he remained in Rome till December 15. He applied for an audience at the Quirinal, and was received with a gracious cordiality by King Umberto. Both the French ambassador to

the Italian
court and the ambassador to the Vatican
placed themselves
at his disposal, and furnished him either
personally or
through their *attaches* with a quantity of
information.
Some of the Italian ministers took a similar
course. He
was welcomed, too, in several drawing-rooms.
M. Hubert, the
great French painter, accompanied him on his
visits to the